



July 12, 2021

The Honorable Tom Hucker
Council President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Council President Hucker:

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports *ZTA 19-07 -- Telecommunications Towers – Limited Use* and urges its approval.

Montgomery County's economy relies on innovation to advance economic activity. ZTA 19-07, which allows a pathway for fifth generation mobile networks, is vital to these efforts. The opportunities for innovation and advancement in health care, transportation, public safety, education, manufacturing, entertainment, and many other sectors cannot be understated. Surrounding jurisdictions like northern Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Prince George's County are already moving forward with 5G innovation, and it is imperative to the competitiveness of Montgomery County's economy that we do the same.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the digital divide to the forefront. Approving ZTA 19-07 helps close this divide by creating greater capacity for educational opportunities and providing more flexibility in the way we all work. Students and families, especially those from lower income households, have struggled disproportionately with virtual schooling and access to technology necessary for students to succeed. The same is true for those who have been able to work from home during the pandemic but have had difficulty meeting the technological needs necessary for telework.

It is for these reasons that the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce urges the approval of ZTA 19-07. As always, we stand ready to provide assistance to you during your deliberations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Godwin".

Georgette "Gigi" Godwin
President & CEO
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

cc: Members, Montgomery County Council